THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) It is a fact that over Rs. 1000 crores have been blocked in Iraq representing dues payable by Iraqi companies' banks for project exports executed by Indian contractors in Iraq.

(b) and (c) These above loans were being serviced out of payments received through import of oil from Iraq, under the Deferred Payment Arrangements between Governments of India and Iraq. With the onset of Gulf crisis and imposition of UN trade embargo, import of crude oil could not be effected and no payments have therefore been relised under the Deferred Payment Arrangements, since August, 1990. Government took up the matter with the UN Security Council Committee about the possibility of Iraq providing oil to India in lieu of money owed to Indian construction companies in January, 1991. However, response of UN Security Council Committee had not been favourable. Arrangements for realisation of further payments from Iraq can, therefore, be worked out only after lifting of UN trade embargo on Iraq.

Indo-Myanmar Trade

*277. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake border trade with Myanmar; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Conference on Standardisation and Quality Upgradation of a Substitute for Timber

*278. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards recently organised a conference on standardisation and quality upgradation of a substitute for timber; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the said conference?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Bureau of Indian Standards organised tre National Conference on Standardization and Quality Upgradation of Lignocellulosic Panel Products (LPP) on 29-30 December, 1992 at New Dehi. These products are one of the several possible substitutes for conventional timber.

The purpose of this Conference was to consider standardisation and quality aspects pertaining to application, development and potential use of lignocellulosic panel products as substitute for conventional timber. The term 'lignocellulosic' applies to the products manufactured out of wood or agro based fibrous materials including wood and agro wastes. Examples of lignoceusic panel products are particle boards, fibre boards, block boards and plywood.

The major recommendations of this Conference include the following :—

(i) promotion of the use of lignocellulsic pane products (LPP) as alternative to solid wood for all relevant construction activities;

(ii) manufacturers of LPP to go in for BIS Certification Marks Scheme and BIS Quality System Certification Scheme;

(iii) user organizations to go for ISI Marked LPP as far as possible;

(iv) in addition to the already existing Indian Standard Specifications and methods of tests on lignocellulosic panel products, codes of practice should be formulated for working with lignocellulosic panel products; and

(v) creation of laboratory facilities for performance testing of lignocellulosic panel products and LPP based finished building products.

Implementation of the above recommendations of the Conference has been taken up through concerned Techical Committees of the Bureau of Indian Standards. Recommendations concerning other appropriate organistions are being referred to them.

प्रबंधकीय पदों पर काम कर रही महिलाओं का प्रतिशत

*279. **श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी :**
श्री मोहम्मद सलीम :

क्या **श्रम** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में प्रबंधकीय पदों पर कितने प्रतिशत महिलायें काम कर रही हैं;

(ख) अन्य विकासशील तथा विकसित देशों में विद्यमान स्थिति की तुलना में हमारी स्थिति क्या है ; और

(ग) प्रबंधकीय पदों पर महिलाओं के प्रतिशत को बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री श्रीपी.ए. संगमा) : (क) से (ग) संगठित क्षेत्र के लिए उपलब्ध नवीनतम सूचना के अनुसार, निजी क्षेत्र के लिए 30 सितम्बर, 1983 तथा सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के लिए 30 सितम्बर, 1984 की स्थिति के अनुसार प्रशासनिक, कार्यपालक तथा प्रबंधकीय पदधारी कुल व्यक्तियों में से क्रमश: 3.8% तथा 3.3% महिलायें थी ।

सार्वजनिक तथा निजी दोनों क्षेत्रों को ध्यान में रखते हुए वर्ष 1984 में कुछ विकासशील तथा विकसित देशों (पाकिस्तान के लिए 1985) में प्रशासनिक तथा प्रबंधकीय पदधारी महिलाओं की प्रतिशतता निम्न प्रकार थी :—

पाकिस्तान (1985)	2.1	मलेशिया	9.6
श्रीलंका	11.8	जापान	6.1
थाईलैन्ड	18.4	संयुक्त राज्य (युनाइटेड स्टेट्स)	33.6
फिलिपिन्स	25.8	कनाडा	31.6